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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,421	08/21/2003	James J. Ross	082454-0102	8063

26371 7590 07/19/2005
FOLEY & LARDNER
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MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-5308

EXAMINER

KOVACS, ARPAD F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/645,421

Applicant(s)

ROSS ET AL

Examiner

Árpád Fábián Kovács

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wollersheim (5261214, cited by Applicant) and/or Rush et al (US 2003/084655 A1) and/or Stalpes et al (6082083), in view of Hildebrandt (5511445) and/or Moseley (6065764).

Wollersheim discloses a working member / blade (16), a handle / handlebar (22), a biased control / control bail / bale (30) which pivots from a first to a second positions to stop the blade.

Prior art does not disclose the flexible material claimed.

Rush similarly discloses a working member / blade (¶ 25), a handle bar (22), a biased control / bail / bale (32) for controlling the operation of the mower.

Prior art does not disclose the flexible material claimed.

Stalpes discloses a mower having a blade (8), a handle bar grip (32), a biased control / bail / bale (72) for controlling the operation of the mower, a

Art Unit: 3671

channel to receive the control bail (fig 6). Prior art does not disclose the flexible material claimed.

Hildebrandt discloses flexible band grip that can be wound around a handle of a lawn mower handle / bar / control bail etc... to form a compressible deformable flexible hand grip / tube having a compressible outer surface / an overlap portion (fig 1) that is relatively comfortable for the person's hand and is made of a flexible foam material (col. 1, col. 2).

Malloy also discloses foam or rubber handle bar grip (15) of lawn mower application (col. 4, ln 39).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the handle bar or control control bail of Wollersheim and/or Rush and/or Stalpes with the teachings of a compressible tube foam grip material of Malloy and/or Hildebrandt, in order to make it less difficult to grasp the handle or control bail and avoid hand slipping (Hildebrandt, col. 1, ln 15-25).

As applied to claim(s) 25-44, in view of the structure disclosed/taught by Wollersheim and/or Rush and/or Stalpes as modified by Malloy and/or Hildebrandt, the method of operating/using the device would have been obvious since it is the normal and logical manner in which the device is used.

Art Unit: 3671

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Farris, Turk et al., Moseley.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Árpád Fábián Kovács whose telephone number is 571 272 6990. The examiner can normally be reached on Mo-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571 272 6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Árpád Fábián Kovács
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3671

ÁFK